

Symphony

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HEADQUARTERS
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SUBJECT: SPECIFIC: Trip to Budapest by Mr. : STATUS:
RUEFFER, moving representa- :
tive of Political Dept., : Pending
Jewish Agency :
GENERAL: Project SYMPHONY

SOURCE: CONDUCTOR

REFERENCE: LVX 288, LSX 251

COMMENT:

Clarification is being sought as to the exact location and specific Jewish ownership of the treasure referred to in this report.

EVALUATION: Factual

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1. This report is mainly concerned with the trip to Budapest by Mr. RUFFLER, the roving representative of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency.

2. RUFFLER was sent in to try to solve all the problems which have arisen in Hungary owing to the violent action taken by the Hungarian government and by the Russians against illegal Jewish immigration. He saw a number of prominent Hungarian personalities, amongst them R. OSI (LVA 229), the deputy to the Prime Minister; the chief of the Hungarian Communist Party, R. G. K.; the Minister of Interior, and many others who were finally persuaded that it would be better for both the Hungarian government and for the Hungarian Jewry that the emigration not be continued in a clandestine manner where it would constantly be prevented by police action but from now on be carried on as regular emigration. The result of all the conferences of RUFFLER with R. OSI and R. G. K. was that on 19 May 1946 in a letter addressed to the Jewish Agency of Palestine an official declaration will be issued by the Council of Hungarian Ministers wherein emigration of Jews "would be permitted from now on individually and collectively, destination of the emigration being Palestine".

3. The second point on which the Jewish Agency of Palestine scored a victory during RUFFLER's visit was the following: In the neighborhood of Hallein in the American zone, Austria, there is a treasure of confiscated Jewish property which is evaluated anywhere from \$50,000,000 to \$150,000,000. A more exact evaluation has never been made. Other Jewish property belonging to Hungarian Jews is scattered all over Austria. RUFFLER's mission was to persuade the Hungarian government that since most of the owners of this property have been killed, the best that could be done with it would be to give trusteeship of unidentified Hungarian Jewish property in the U.S. zone, Austria, to the Jewish Agency of Palestine. The money or monies would then be used for the immigration to relief, rehabilitation and colonization of European Jews in Palestine. The Hungarian government will issue an official declaration this week charging the Jewish Agency of Palestine with the location and trusteeship of all the property found in the U.S. zone of Austria and Germany and allowing the Jewish Agency to use it for the immigration of Jewish refugees to Palestine.

SECRET CONTROL

SECRET CONTROL

4. In order to make the matter official as far as the American authorities are concerned, RUFFER had an interview with General T. TE to whom he explained the entire Jewish emigration. General T. TE, lacking knowledge of the details demanded that all the 100,000 certificates for immigration into Palestine, promised by the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, be used to rid Austria and the Balkans of this number of Jews. RUFFER had to explain that the Committee had recommended these certificates but that as yet no action had been taken to issue them. In order to make an official claim on the Hungarian Jewish property in Austria, RUFFER is having an interview with Mr. EHRHARDT, the Political Advisor. He will propose a joint trusteeship of American, English and Palestinian Jews to administer and spend the fund.

5. RUFFER is leaving for Switzerland, whence he will go to Paris to report to SHERTOK, the chief of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency, who at present is in Paris. Whether, he will remain in Europe or return to Palestine will depend on his chiefs in London.

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